

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following Listing of Claims.

1. **(currently amended)** An apparatus for determining an instant to apply a defibrillation voltage to a patient, the apparatus comprising a plurality of electrodes for obtaining an electrocardiographic (ECG) signal from a the patient, and data processing means for (a) determining a region of the ECG signal where such ECG signal passes from a first threshold to a second threshold at least equal in magnitude to that of the first threshold and of opposite polarity thereto while the gradient of such ECG signal remains within certain gradient limits, (b) detecting the next following ECG signal peak, and (c) providing an output signal upon such detection, wherein said output signal identifies the instant to apply the defibrillation voltage to the patient.
2. **(original)** An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first threshold is a negative threshold and the second threshold is a positive threshold.
3. **(original)** An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first threshold is a positive threshold and the second threshold is a negative threshold.
4. **(original)** A defibrillator including an apparatus as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the occurrence of the output signal is used to trigger the application of a defibrillation voltage across defibrillation electrodes.
5. **(original)** A defibrillator as claimed in claim 4, wherein the electrodes providing the ECG signal are also the defibrillation electrodes.
6. **(previously presented)** A defibrillator as claimed in claim 4, wherein the defibrillation voltage is an n-phasic truncated exponential voltage where n is greater than 1.
7. **(previously presented)** A defibrillator as claimed in claim 4, wherein the defibrillation voltage is a biphasic truncated exponential voltage.

8. **(previously presented)** A defibrillator as claimed in claim 5, wherein the defibrillation voltage is an n-phasic truncated exponential voltage where n is greater than 1.

9. **(previously presented)** A defibrillator as claimed in claim 5, wherein the defibrillation voltage is a biphasic truncated exponential voltage.

10. **(previously presented)** A defibrillator as claimed in claim 6, wherein the defibrillation voltage is a biphasic truncated exponential voltage.

11. **(previously presented)** A defibrillator as claimed in claim 8, wherein the defibrillation voltage is a biphasic truncated exponential voltage.

12. **(currently amended)** ~~The apparatus~~ A defibrillator as claimed in claim 1, wherein the output signal is provided in real time upon detection of the next following ECG signal peak.

13. **(currently amended)** A method for determining an instant to apply a defibrillation voltage to a patient, the method comprising the steps of obtaining an electrocardiographic (ECG) signal from the patient using a plurality of electrodes, determining a region of the ECG signal where such ECG signal passes from a first threshold to a second threshold at least equal in magnitude to that of the first threshold and of opposite polarity thereto while the gradient of such ECG signal remains within certain gradient limits, detecting the next following ECG signal peak, providing an output signal upon such detection, and applying the defibrillation voltage to the patient upon the occurrence of said output signal.

14. **(currently amended)** ~~The apparatus~~ method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the step of providing the output signal is ~~performed~~ provided in real time upon the detection of the next following ECG signal peak.